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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/938,468	08/14/1996	NICK HOLT	669005.409C3	2889

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EXAMINER
BASHORE, WILLIAM L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

DATE MAILED: 03/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	08/938,468	Holt, Nick et al.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	William L. Bashore	2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ___3___ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *Nov 13, 2001* _____

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *7-15, 17, 19, 21-26, 29, and 43-46* _____ is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideratio

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *7-15, 17, 19, 21-26, 29, and 43-46* _____ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requiremen

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

　　a)☐ All b)☐ Some* c)☐ None of:

　　　1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

　　　3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to communications: RCE and Response, both filed on 11/13/2001, to the

application filed on 8/14/1996 (Rule 60). Preliminary amendment filed on 4/21/1998, and IDS filed on

4/21/1998.

2.   It is noted that this application has the following continuation history: application 08/334,616 (now

Patent No. 5,557,723) ; application 08/207,231 filed 3/7/1994 (abandoned) ; and application 07/621,444

filed 11/30/1990 (abandoned). This application claims a filing date of **11/30/1990**.

3.   The rejection of claims 7, 9-11, 29, 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Texier, and Turpin has been withdrawn as necessitated by Response.

4.   The rejection of claims 8, 12-15, 17, 19, 21-26, 43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Texier, Turpin, and Karnik has been withdrawn as necessitated by Response.

5.   Claims 7-15, 17, 19, 21-26, 29, 43-46 are pending in this case. Claims 7, 12, 19, 29 are independent

claims.

Request for Continued Examination

6.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR

1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued

examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of

the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on

11/13/2001 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections

set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this
> title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a
> whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said
> subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8.   **Claims 7, 9-11, 29, 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over**

Texier, U.S. Patent No. 5,119,476 issued June 1992, in view of Dayton, Doug (hereinafter Dayton),

PerForm Pro expands simple WYSIWYG form design, filling, PC Week, Volume 7, Number 39,

October 1, 1990, pp. 33-35.

In regard to independent claim 7, Texier teaches:

- the creation of a custom form (Texier Abstract, column 1 lines 61-63; compare with claim 7

preamble "*a method in a computer system....the method comprising*").

- Texier does not specifically teach providing a plurality of defined field types and defined behaviors

presented for user selection. However, Dayton teaches PerForm Pro, a form creation tool comprising Form

Designer for constructing forms using objects on a menu driven work area, and a toolbox to customize forms.

(Dayton p.33 Summary, at 1, also p. 34 at 2 and 3; compare with claim 7 "*providing a plurality of defined*

field types that can be associated with custom fields that can be included in the custom form", and

"*receiving user input selecting: a selected field type from among the plurality of defined field types*").

It is to be noted that Dayton's toolbox provides various user selectable options (tools) to customize a form. It

is also noted that each tool in said toolbox has default features that can be modified (defined) to help

customize said form (Dayton p.33 Summary, at 1, also p. 34 at 2, 3, 4, and 5; compare with claim 7

"*providing a plurality of defined behaviors that can be associated with the custom fields that can be*

included in the custom form", and "*receiving user input selecting: a selected behavior from among the*

plurality of defined behaviors"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the invention to apply Dayton to Texier, because of Dayton's taught advantage of selectable defined form

design options, providing a user of Texier the advantage of visually choosing selections to customize a form

from a toolbox set of design options.

- zones which are equivalent to fields. said zones containing associated descriptions and behaviors.

as well as a form control procedure to implement a procedure associated with certain fields (Texier Figure 1

items Pl-P7, column 6 lines 46-56, also column 8 lines 1-12: compare with claim 7 "*creating a custom field*

in the custom form, the custom field having the selected field type and the selected behavior").

- display of a custom form, receiving data invoking a procedure to accept data from a custom field

(Texier Figure 1, also column 2 lines 8-15; compare with claim 7 "*displaying the custom form, including*

the custom field, on a display device", and "*receiving data directed to the custom field of the displayed*

custom form").

- a form control procedure for executing a selected custom behavior subsequent to user input

(validation) (Texier Figure 1 item P7, also Figure 3; compare with claim 7 "*in response to receiving the*

data....performing the selected behavior for the custom field").

In regard to dependent claim 9, Texier teaches a form containing a plurality of input fields said

input fields can be assigned to various procedures (ie. validation, font, etc.) (Texier Figure 1, 3; compare

with claim 9).

In regard to dependent claim 10, Texier teaches a displayed form containing fields placed on said form utilizing placement field data controlled by the program (Texier Figure 1, also column 6 lines 46-56: compare with claim 10).

In regard to dependent claim 11, Teller teaches a form with an active field triggering a validation event subsequent to user input of data into said field (Texier column 2 lines 8-15: compare with claim 11).

In regard to independent claim 29, Texier teaches:

- the creation of a custom form (Texier Abstract, column 1 lines 61-63; compare with claim 7 preamble "*a computer readable medium....comprising*").

- Texier does not specifically teach providing a plurality of defined field types and defined behaviors presented for user selection. However, Dayton teaches PerForm Pro, a form creation tool comprising Form Designer for constructing forms using objects on a menu driven work area, and a toolbox to customize forms. (Dayton p.33 Summary, at 1, also p. 34 at 2 and 3; compare with claim 29 "*providing a plurality of defined field types that can be associated with custom fields that can be included in the custom form*", and "*receiving user input selecting: a selected field type from among the plurality of defined field types*").

It is to be noted that Dayton's toolbox provides various user selectable options (tools) to customize a form. It is also noted that each tool in said toolbox has default features that can be modified (defined) to help customize said form (Dayton p.33 Summary, at 1, also p. 34 at 2, 3, 4, and 5; compare with claim 29 "*providing a plurality of defined behaviors that can be associated with the custom fields that can be included in the custom form*", and "*receiving user input selecting: a selected behavior from among the plurality of defined behaviors*"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the invention to apply Dayton to Texier, because of Dayton's taught advantage of selectable defined form

design options, providing a user of Texier the advantage of visually choosing selections to customize a form

from a toolbox set of design options.

- zones which are equivalent to fields. said zones containing associated descriptions and behaviors.

as well as a form control procedure to implement a procedure associated with certain fields (Texier Figure 1

items P1-P7, column 6 lines 46-56, also column 8 lines 1-12: compare with claim 29 *"creating a custom field*

in the custom form, the custom field having the selected field type and the selected behavior").

- display of a custom form, receiving data invoking a procedure to accept data from a custom field

(Texier Figure 1, also column 2 lines 8-15; compare with claim 29 *"displaying the custom form, including*

the custom field, on a display device", and *"receiving data directed to the custom field of the displayed*

custom form").

- a form control procedure for executing a selected custom behavior subsequent to user input

(validation) (Texier Figure 1 item P7, also Figure 3; compare with claim 29 *"in response to receiving the*

data....performing the selected behavior for the custom field").

In regard to dependent claim 44, Texier teaches a form containing a plurality of input fields said

input fields can be assigned to various procedures (ie. validation, font, etc.) (Texier Figure 1, 3; compare

with claim 44).

In regard to dependent claim 45, Texier teaches a displayed form containing fields placed on said

form utilizing placement field data controlled by the program (Texier Figure 1, also column 6 lines 46-56:

compare with claim 45).

In regard to dependent claim 46, Teller teaches a form with an active field triggering a validation event subsequent to user input of data into said field (Texier column 2 lines 8-15: compare with claim 46).

9.   **Claims 8, 12-15, 17, 19, 21-26, 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Texier, U.S. Patent No. 5,119,476 issued June 1992, in view of Dayton, Doug (hereinafter Dayton), PerForm Pro expands simple WYSIWYG form design, filling, PC Week, Volume 7, Number 39, October 1, 1990, pp. 33-35, and further in view of Karnik, U.S. Patent No. 5,404,294 issued April 1995.**

In regard to dependent claim 8 (dependent from claim 7), Texier does not specifically teach a behavior modifying more then one field. However, Karnik teaches a form system whereby tags (fields) can be linked to other tags arithmetically using different mathematical functions (Karnik column 6 lines 8-17; compare with claim 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Karnik to Texier, because of Karnik's taught advantage of tag linking, providing a way to incorporate formulas (a custom behavior) into the forms of Texier.

In regard to independent claim 12, Texier teaches:

- the creation of a custom form (Texier Abstract, column 1 lines 61-63; compare with claim 12 preamble "*a method in a computer system....the method comprising*").

- display of a custom form (Texier Figure 1; compare with claim 12 "*displaying the custom form, the custom form having one or more custom fields, wherein each custom field has:*")

- Texier does not specifically teach providing a plurality of defined field types and defined behaviors presented for user selection. However, Dayton teaches PerForm Pro, a form creation tool comprising Form Designer for constructing forms using objects on a menu driven work area, and a toolbox to customize forms. (Dayton p.33 Summary, at 1, also p. 34 at 2 and 3; compare with claim 12 *"a selected custom field type that has been selected by a user from among a plurality of defined custom field types that are supported by the computer system"*). It is to be noted that Dayton's toolbox provides various user selectable options (tools) to customize a form. It is also noted that each tool in said toolbox has default features that can be modified (defined) to help customize said form (Dayton p.33 Summary, at 1, also p. 34 at 2, 3, 4, and 5; compare with claim 12 *"a selected custom behavior that has been selected by a user from among a plurality of defined custom behaviors that are supported by the computer system"*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Dayton to Texier, because of Dayton's taught advantage of selectable defined form design options, providing a user of Texier the advantage of visually choosing selections to customize a form from a toolbox set of design options.

- display of a custom form, receiving data invoking a procedure to accept data from a custom field (Texier Figure 1, also column 2 lines 8-15; compare with claim 12 *"receiving data directed to a particular field of the custom form"*).

- a form control procedure for executing a selected custom behavior subsequent to user input (validation), which commences execution of another behavior subsequent to said validation (Texier Figure 1 item P7, also Figure 3; compare with claim 12 *"determining that the particular field is a custom field that has a selected custom behavior"*, and *"in response to the act of determining, performing the selected custom behavior for the particular field"*, and *"determining whether to perform another behavior....custom behavior having been performed"*).

- Texier does not specifically teach a custom behavior for an identified field indicating user defined

operations. However. Karnik teaches a form system whereby tags (fields) can be linked to other tags

arithmetically using different mathematical functions, and different types of mathematical functions can be

specified (Karnik column 6 lines 8-17; compare with claim 12 *"a custom behavior"*. It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Karnik to Texier. because of

Karnik's taught advantage of tag linking. providing a way to incorporate formulas (a custom behavior) into

the forms of Texier.

In regard to dependent claim 13, Texier teaches a form with an active field triggering a validation

event subsequent to user input of data into said field (Texier column 2 lines 8-15: compare with claim 13).

In regard to dependent claim 14, Texier teaches the creation of a form, a form header containing

data describing a window in which fields are displayed, and zones which are equivalent to fields, said zones

containing associated descriptions and behaviors, said fields reflective of a default standard rectangular field

and a standard behavior (text input) (Texier column 1 lines 61-63. column 3 lines 42-43. Figure 1 items

P1-P7. also column G lines 46-56: compare with claim 14).

In regard to dependent claim 15, Texier does not specifically teach the explicit ordering of a

behavior (validation) before or after execution of a custom behavior (combining multiple field data using a

formula). However, placement of said behavior, either before or after a custom behavior, would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, because form data validation is

executed at all levels of data handling code in known mission critical software systems, providing increased data accuracy to Texier.

In regard to dependent claim 17, Texier teaches data field input and display by a user (Texier Abstract. also Figure I; compare with claim 1 7.

In regard to independent claim 19, Texier teaches:

- the creation of a custom form (Texier Abstract, column 1 lines 61-63; compare with claim 7 preamble *"a method in a computer system....the method comprising"*).

- Texier does not specifically teach a custom behavior for an identified field indicating user defined operations. However. Karnik teaches a form system whereby tags (fields) can be linked to other tags arithmetically using different mathematical functions, and different types of mathematical functions can be specified (Karnik column 6 lines 8-17; compare with claim 19 *"a custom behavior"*. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Karnik to Texier. because of Karnik's taught advantage of tag linking. providing a way to incorporate formulas (a custom behavior) into the forms of Texier.

- display of a custom form (Texier Figure 1; compare with claim 19 *"displaying the custom form, the custom form having a custom field, wherein the custom field has:"*)

- Texier does not specifically teach providing a plurality of defined field types and defined behaviors presented for user selection. However, Dayton teaches PerForm Pro, a form creation tool comprising Form Designer for constructing forms using objects on a menu driven work area, and a toolbox to customize forms. (Dayton p.33 Summary, at 1, also p. 34 at 2 and 3; compare with claim 19 *"a selected custom field type*

that has been selected by a user from among a plurality of defined custom field types that are supported

by the computer system"). It is to be noted that Dayton's toolbox provides various user selectable options

(tools) to customize a form. It is also noted that each tool in said toolbox has default features that can be

modified (defined) to help customize said form (Dayton p.33 Summary, at 1, also p. 34 at 2, 3, 4, and 5;

compare with claim 19 "*a selected custom behavior that has been selected by a user from among a*

plurality of defined custom behaviors that are supported by the computer system"). It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Dayton to Texier, because of

Dayton's taught advantage of selectable defined form design options, providing a user of Texier the

advantage of visually choosing selections to customize a form from a toolbox set of design options.

- an input field, which is indicative of a standard behavior, and is implemented without further

selection (acceptance of textual input into an input buffer) (Texier Figure 1; compare with claim 19 "*a*

standard behavior....required to select the standard behavior").

- display of a custom form, receiving data invoking a procedure to accept data from a custom input

field (Texier Figure 1, also column 2 lines 8-15; compare with claim 19 "*receiving data directed to the*

custom field").

- a form control procedure for executing a selected custom behavior subsequent to user input

(validation), which commences execution of another behavior subsequent to said validation, said form control

procedure also processing a standard behavior (acceptance and processing of textual input) (Texier Figure 1

items P1 - P7, also Figure 3; compare with claim 19 "*invoking a form control procedure operating at the*

computer system", and "*receiving an indication from the form control procedure to perform the standard*

behavior for the field", and "*performing the standard behavior for the custom field*", and "*reinvoking the*

form....custom behavior for the custom field").

In regard to dependent claim 21, Texier teaches a form control procedure to implement a procedure associated with certain fields. as well as zones -which are equivalent to fields. said zones containing associated descriptions and behaviors (Texier Figure 1 items P 1-P7. column 6 lines 46-66. column 8 lines 5-12: compare with claim 21).

In regard to dependent claim 22, transporting forms for display in other computers systems via a network is known in the networking art.

In regard to dependent claim 23, Texier teaches a validation button (Texier Figure I item P7: compare with claim 23).

In regard to dependent claims 24, 25, 26, Texier teaches a displayed form with multiple input fields (Texier Figure 1: compare with claims 24, 25, 26.

In regard to dependent claim 43 (dependent from claim 29), Texier does not specifically teach a behavior modifying more then one field. However, Karnik teaches a form system whereby tags (fields) can be linked to other tags arithmetically using different mathematical functions (Karnik column 6 lines 8-17; compare with claim 43). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Karnik to Texier, because of Karnik's taught advantage of tag linking, providing a way to incorporate formulas (a custom behavior) into the forms of Texier.

10.   **Prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to disclosure.**

Johnson et al.   U.S. Patent No. 5,060,980   issued   10/1991

Miller, Michael J., PerForm Pro defines the state of the art in forms packages, InfoWorld, Volume 12, Number 39, September 24, 1990, p. 88.

Litwin, Paul, Looking Good: the complete guide to enhancing your forms!, Data Based Advisor, Volume 8, Number 9, October 1990, pp. 66-72.

Getting Started With Microsoft Excel Version 2.2, 1989 Microsoft Corporation, pp. 5-19.

Response to Arguments

11.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7-15, 17, 19, 21-26, 29, 43-46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William Bashore whose telephone number is **(703) 308-5807**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on **(703) 308-5186.**

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900.**

13.   **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

       Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
       Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

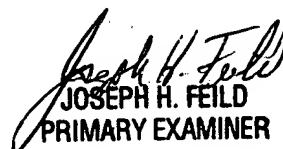   **(703) 746-7239** (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:
       (703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or:
       (703) 746-7238 (for after-final communications)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

William L. Bashore
02/21/2002

JOSEPH H. FEILD
PRIMARY EXAMINER